

# World History Honors

## The Interwar Years 1919-1939

Which countries on the map to the right were new countries created in 1918 after the Treaty of Versailles?



EUROPE DURING THE INTERWAR YEARS

Orzoff-Baranyk

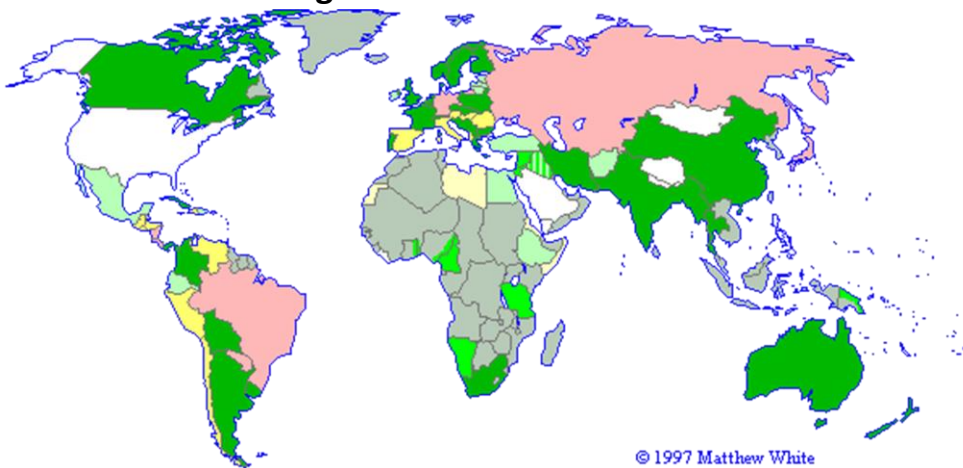
Don't forget to answer questions in gray thoughtfully.

World History Honors

## After WWI

- Most countries economically devastated
  - 2 million out of work in England
  - Germany deep in debt
- Many new democracies
  - New, not very stable
  - New parties start to run for office: Communists, Fascists, etc.
  - Multi-party systems used in many European countries.
    - The percentage of the total vote a party gets determines how many seats they get in parliament (ex: If there were 100 seats & the Fascists got 10% of the total vote, they'd get 10 seats).

## A Weak League of Nations



### The League of Nations:

- Members for the duration of the League (1920-46)
- Late joiners who remained in the League until the end (1946)
- Colonies of League members (1946)
- League of Nations Mandates

### Members who were expelled or otherwise left early:

- Membership lasted more than 15 years
- Membership lasted less than 15 years
- Colonies

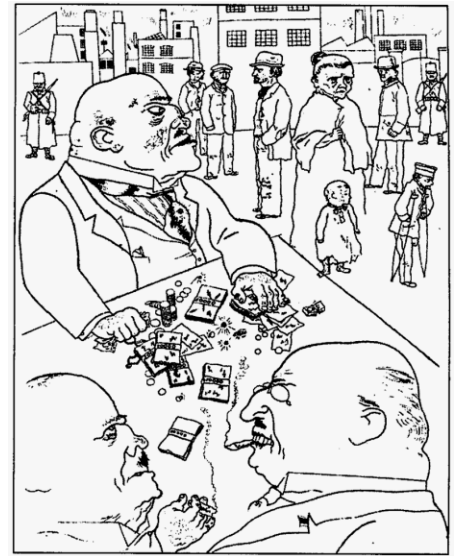
- The League of Nations had been created as a place where countries could work out their differences without fighting.
- Membership was voluntary.
  - The United States did not join because Congress was mad at Wilson for attending the Versailles conference without congressmen & because of overwhelming fear in the US that this would draw the United States into international conflicts.
- The League could not force countries to do anything, they could only make suggestions.
  - This meant the League had no control over major conflicts.
  - They made absolutely no progress in disarmament (remember, militarism was a cause of WWI)
  - They had no effective military force.

## Growing German Anger

- German soldiers remained highly dissatisfied with the position of Germany after WWI.
  - They felt Germany had been “Stabbed in the Back” by the traitors who signed the Treaty of Versailles (The Weimar Republic)
  - Adolf Hitler was a soldier in WWI



- The Weimar Republic →
  - Weak government
  - Blamed for Germany's defeat in WWI
  - Hyperinflation used to pay war debts
  - Printed more money which caused the value of money to fall sharply
    - Bread 1918: <1 mark
    - Bread 1922: 160 marks
    - Bread 1923: 200 billion marks
      - The paper the marks are printed on is worth more than the mark's value.
  - 1924: Dawes Plan
    - US loans Germany \$200 million dollars
    - Germany starts to recover



Look at the cartoon at the top right. Describe how the German who drew this cartoon must have felt about the Weimar Republic?

**The Following is from the autobiography *Restless Days* by Lilo Lenke, a young German journalist and pacifist. This describes how her family was affected by the post WWI world.**

In my own family the political antagonism was growing past endurance. In October Fritz had finished his apprenticeship in an old-established export house, at the precise moment when the firm went bankrupt...[F]or my brother the bankruptcy of his firm...meant that he lost his job. His three years' training was in vain – there was not a single export firm which was not forced to dismiss as many of its employees as possible.

Coming home from the office, I found him brooding in a corner with the expression of a beaten dog. He felt humiliated by the fact that I, a girl, was working and earning money whilst he was idle and without a pfennig in his pockets, reduced to the state of a proletarian. I tried to console him:

“Don't worry, you will find another job. And besides, it isn't in the least your fault. Nobody can blame you. Millions suffer the same.”

He looked at me with wild hatred:

“Yes, that's just it – millions! If it isn't my fault, whose fault is it? I tell you – your friends, the French, the English, the Americans, and all those damnable nations who inflict on us one dishonorable penalty after the other – they are to blame for all this. Before the war the whole world bought German goods. My firm exported to Africa, to the German colonies. Hundreds of thousands we turned over every year. But they have robbed us of our colonies, of all our former markets. They have stolen the coal-mines in the Saar...they squeeze millions of marks out of our bleeding country. We'll never rise again unless we free ourselves by another war.”

“Don't be foolish, Fritz. Things are bad in the whole world.”

“I don't care about the world. I care only about Germany, which you and your pacifists have delivered in to the hands of our enemies. I despise you, you are not worthy to call yourself German.”

**Explain why many Germans were angry and disillusioned in the 1930s.**

## The Weak German Dollar



A German woman uses German Marks as fuel in her fireplace.



A German woman uses German Marks as fuel for her stove.



German children play with blocks made out of marks.



A German man wallpapers his home with German marks.

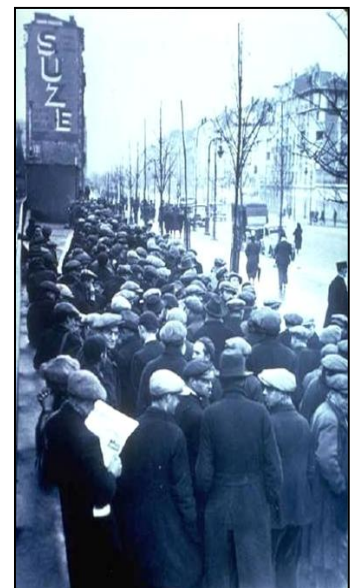


The 50 million mark note, printed in 1923.

Why are all of these people using their money in unconventional ways?

## The Great Depression

- After WWI there was U.S. prosperity
  - Men were paid during the war
  - Women were paid in factories at the home front
  - Few goods available for purchase during WWI, so lots of savings
  - 1920s: Consumerism hit an all time high!
- Reasons for the economic collapse
  - Farmers could not cut back from wartime production, but weren't being paid for their produce by the government anymore. Many start burning food & killing livestock to bring food prices up.
  - Factories overproduced & then had to fire workers when their goods weren't bought.
  - Too much credit/loans. When people lost their jobs, they could not pay back what they owed.
  - Buying stocks "on the margin."
    - People borrowed money to buy stocks that they believed would make money.
    - If the stock did well, they paid back the money they borrowed from their earnings.
    - If the stock crashed – they owed the money they did not have.



Line for a free meal at a soup kitchen.

Frequently homes were put up as collateral, and people lost their homes.

- **Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929**
  - September Stock market was artificially high & many start to sell stocks
    - causes a panic.
      - 16 million stocks sold Oct. 29
    - Market collapsed.
  - By 1932: factory production cut ½, business failed, banks closed, 9 million people lost savings accounts, farmers lost lands
  - By 1933: 25% of Americans were out of work.
  - American bankers call in loans
    - Investors withdrew \$ from Europe
  - US stops buying foreign goods (both European & Asian)
    - Tariffs placed on foreign goods
    - World trade dropped 65%
  - Unemployment up
  - 1931: Austria's largest bank closed
  - 1929-1931: Japanese exports cut in half
  - England, France, Nordic countries: More socialist programs in place "welfare states," public works, able to respond.
  - 1932: FDR elected in USA helps to end the Depression.



People lived on the streets after losing their homes.

**When the world faces an economic depression like the one in 1929, what kind of leaders do you think people are likely to elect? Describe attributes we would want in a leader.**

## The Rise of Fascism

- Europe, after WWI
  - People want national unity & strong leadership
- The term **fascism** was created by **Benito Mussolini** in 1919
  - Described his political movement (first Fascist movement ever)
  - Symbol was the fasces (ancient Roman symbol)
  - Fascism was different in each country that adopted it, but had common characteristics.
    - Absolute Power of the State
      - Strong centralized government.
      - total control over all major parts of society
      - Individuals give up private needs to serve the need of the whole society/ government.



Fasces: Bundle of rods tied around an ax that represented the power Rome.

- Rule by a Dictator
  - Single dictator makes all important decisions.
  - Usually a charismatic person with a magnetic personality to gain the support of the people.
  - Single party controls the state.
- Corporatism
  - A middle road between socialism & capitalism.
  - Tame capitalism by controlling labor & factory owners to do what is best for the state, not the individual.
  - Unions, strikes, and other labor actions are illegal.
  - Communists, who want equality for all & dissolution of gov't, are hated.
  - Private property remains, but state controls the economy.
- Extreme Nationalism
  - Use of national glory & fear of outside threats to build a new society.
  - National myths are used for guidance & to inspire action.
- Superiority of the Nation's People
  - Nation's people are held as superior to all other nationalities.
  - Dominant group in the nation is strengthened and unified.
  - Dissent is stifled. Minority groups are oppressed.
- Militarism and Imperialism
  - Great nations show their greatness by conquering & ruling weak nations.
  - The state can only survive if it successfully proves its military in war.
  - Conquer or be conquered. Peace is a sign of weakness.

Similarities to Communism	Differences from Communism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Totalitarian dictators</li> <li>• Single-party rule</li> <li>• Denial of individual rights</li> <li>• Supremacy of the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clearly defined theory or program</li> <li>• Did not want classless society; each class had its place &amp; purpose</li> <li>• Fascist party leaders were aristocrats, industrialists, war veterans and lower middle class</li> <li>• Nationalist (not internationalist)</li> </ul>

Why do you think this kind of government appeal to post WWI countries?

### Rise of Fascism in Italy

- After WWI
  - Italy was disappointed with its small territorial gains from the Treaty of Versailles.
  - Rising inflation & unemployment.
  - Fear of a communist revolution among the middle class.
  - Democratic government seemed ineffective.
- **Benito Mussolini's Rise to Power**
  - Served in the Italian army during WWI



- Was an active socialist until after WWI; wanted to unify the Italian people
- 1918 – started to deliver speeches calling for a dictator to head the country.
  - Said only a strong leader could unite the people, deal with mass unemployment, chaotic political party conflicts, and strikes by socialists and communists.
- 1919 – abandoned Socialism and formed the Fascist party in Milan
  - “Black Shirts” – his army of street fighters who beat up socialists and communists; threw them out of local government.
  - Gained the support of anti-communist business people, property owners, middle class professionals (teachers, doctors).
- 1921 – Formed the National Fascist Party.
  - Lacked a clear program, but wanted to rule Italy.
- 1922 – Speech before thousands of supporters: “Either the government will be given to us, or we will seize it by marching on Rome.”
  - A few days later thousands of his followers marched on Rome.
  - Government leaders resigned.
  - King Victor Emmanuel had to appoint a new prime minister.
    - Mussolini, with Black Shirts by his side, demanded the king appoint him Prime Minister.
- October 29, 1922: Mussolini became Italy’s youngest prime minister.
  - Still had to officially share power with the King & Pope.
- 1924 – Mussolini called for new elections for Parliament.
  - Election filled with intimidation & fraud.
  - Fascist Party with a smaller allied party won 66% of the vote.
    - Mussolini closed opposition newspapers & banned public protest meetings.
    - All political parties except the Fascist party were made illegal.
    - Outlawed labor unions & strikes.
    - Established a political police force, “Organization for Vigilance and Repression of Antifascism.”
    - Created a “Fascist Grand Council” to serve as a rubber stamp. Parliament became obsolete.
- 1925 – Adopted the title, “Il Duce” (the Leader).
  - Used his forceful personality and emotional speeches to win over the population who chanted slogans like “Il Duce is always right!” and “Believe, obey, fight!”
  - Opponents coined the term “Totalitarianism” to describe his rule.
    - Full control of the political system, the economy, schools, police, courts, military, and more.
    - Mussolini decided he liked this term and used it himself to describe the rebirth of Italian society.

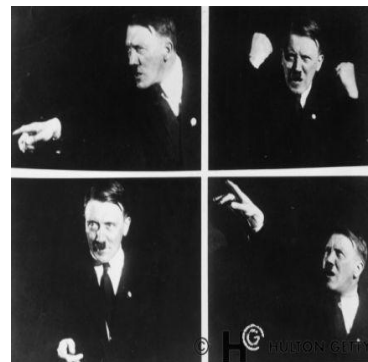


- Adopted pro-fascist policies on abortion & divorce to keep the Church on his side.
  - 1929: He made Catholicism the state religion & the Church supported him.
    - Unlike Germany, Mussolini & most Italians were not anti-Semitic. Jews had fought for Italy in WWI & participated in the march on Rome.
    - Mussolini did not start anti-Semitic policies until he came under the sway of Hitler in the late 1930s. Then Jews were banned from certain professions. When Germany occupied parts of Italy during WWII 20% of Italian Jews were sent to concentration camps. Many others hid. Mussolini did not stop the deportations.

**Why did the Italian people follow Mussolini? What about him or his message appealed to the people of Italy?**

## The Rise of Fascism in Germany & Hitler's Rise to Power

- Germany after WWI was destroyed economically and psychically.
- Adolf Hitler
  - Grew up in Vienna where Jews were very prominent in cultural life
  - He was an unsuccessful Austrian painter and odd job man.
  - During WWI he became a Corporal in the Germany Army
    - Was injured near the end of the War.
- 1919: joined the National Socialist German Worker's Party (Nazis) in Munich
  - He had been sent by the German military to spy on this group but found he agreed with their policies and joined them.
  - Creed: Militarism, patriotism, & hatred of Communists (also fierce anti-Semitism)
  - Hated the treaty of Versailles & the Weimar Republic.
  - Private militia – Brown shirts/Storm troopers
  - Hitler was a very charismatic speaker – leader of the party
- 1923 (inspired by Mussolini) tried to take control of Munich in the “Beer Hall Putsch”
  - Putsch is the German word for coup.
  - Beer halls were places where hundreds, even thousands could gather to drink and talk politics.
    - Political rallies held there frequently.
    - Planned to take over the state government of Bavaria, and make Munich a base of operations to take down the Weimar Republic.
    - When Bavarian police opened fire, the Nazis quickly scattered.
  - Arrested
    - Sentence: 5 years, but only served 5 months.





- Wrote *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*), in which he presented his views.
  - Came to be seen as an authoritative expression of the Nazi worldview
  - Sacred writing for the Nazi movement.
  - Really just a patchwork of 19<sup>th</sup> century anti-Semitic, Volkish (German belief that character was inherited), Social Darwinist, and anti-Marxist ideas.
    - Very different from Enlightenment traditions.
  - Central was racial mythology: a heroic Germanic race that was descended from the ancient Aryans who once swept across Europe, and was fighting for survival against racial inferiors.



### Excerpts from *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler.

Please read the following passages and take notes in the chart at the end.

#### The Primacy of Race

Nature does not want a pairing of weaker individuals with stronger ones; it wants even less a mating of higher race with a weaker one. Otherwise its routine labors of promoting a higher breed lasting perhaps over hundred of thousands of years would be wiped out.

History offers much evidence for this process. It proves with terrifying clarity that any genetic mixture of Aryan blood with people of a lower quality undermines the culturally superior people. The population of North America consists to a large extent of Germanic elements, which have mixed very little with inferior people of color. Central and South America shows a different humanity and culture; here Latin immigrants mixed with the aborigines, sometimes on a large scale. This example alone allows a clear recognition of the effects of racial mixtures. Remaining racially pure the Germans of North America rose to be masters of their continent; they will remain masters as long as they do not defile their blood.

The result of mixing races in short is: a) lowering the cultural level of the higher race; b) physical and spiritual retrogression and thus the beginning of a slow but progressive decline.

To promote such a development means no less than committing sin against the will of the eternal creator...

Everything that we admire on earth—science, technology, invention—is the creative product of only a few people, and perhaps originally of only *one* race; one whole culture depends upon them. If they perish, the beauties of the earth will be buried...

All great cultures of the past perished because the original creative race was destroyed by the poisoning of its blood.

Such collapse always happened because people forgot that all cultured depend on human beings. In order to preserve a given culture it is necessary to preserve the human beings who created it. Cultural preservation in this world is tied to the iron law of necessity and the right to victory of the stronger and better...

If we divide humanity into three categories: into founders of culture, bearers of culture, and destroyers of culture, the Aryan would undoubtedly rate first. He established the foundations and walls of all human progress...

The mixing of blood and the resulting lowering of racial cohesion is the sole reason why cultures perish. People do not perish by defeat in war, but by losing the power of resistance inherent in pure blood.

All that is not pure race in this world is chaff...

A state which in the age of racial poisoning dedicates itself to the cultivation of its best racial elements will one day become master of the world.

#### Anti-Semitism

[Note: Modern anti-Semitism was a powerful legacy of the Middle Ages and the unsettling changes brought about by rapid industrialization; it was linked to racist doctrines that asserted the Jews were inherently wicked and bore dangerous racial qualities. Hitler grasped the political potential of anti-Semitism: by concentrating

all evil on one enemy, he could provide non-Jews with an emotionally satisfying explanation for all their misfortunes and thus manipulate and unify the German people.]

The Jew offers the most powerful contrast to the Aryan... Despite all their seemingly intellectual qualities the Jewish people are without true culture, and especially without a culture of their own. What Jews seem to possess as culture is the property of others, for the most part corrupted in their hands.

In judging the Jewish position in regard to human culture, we have to keep in mind their essential characteristics. There never was—and still is no—Jewish art. The Jewish people made no original contribution to the queen goddess of all arts: architecture and music. What they have contributed is bowdlerization<sup>1</sup> or spiritual theft. Which proves that Jews lack the very qualities distinguishing creative and culturally blessed races...

The first and biggest lie of Jews is that Jewishness is not a matter of race but of religion, form which inevitably follow even more lies. One of them refers to the language of Jews. It is not a means of expressing their thoughts, but of hiding them. While speaking French a Jew thinks Jewish, and while he cobbles together some German verse, he merely expresses the mentality of his people.

As long as the Jew is not master of other peoples, he must for better or worse speak their languages. Yet as soon as the others have become his servants, then all should learn a universal language (Esperanto for instance), so that by these means the Jews can rule more easily...

For hours the black-haired Jewish boy lies in wait, with satanic joy on his face, for the unsuspecting girl whom he disgraces with his blood and thereby robs her from her people. He tries by all means possible to destroy the racial foundations of the people he wants to subjugate.

But a people of pure race conscious of its blood can never be enslaved by the Jew; he remains forever a ruler of bastards.

Thus, he systematically attempts to lower racial purity by racially poisoning individuals.

In politics he beings to replace the idea of democracy with the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

He found his weapons in the organized Marxist masses, which avoid democracy and instead help him to subjugate and govern people dictatorially with his brutal fists.

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<sup>1</sup> the act of deleting or modifying all passages considered to be noxious or offensive, usually from an artistic work

Systematically he worked towards a double revolution, in economics and politics.

With the help of his international contracts he enmeshes people who effectively resist his attacks from within in a net of external enemies whom he incites to war, and, if necessary, goes on to unfurling the red flag of revolution over the battlefield.

He batters the national economies until the ruined state enterprises are privatized and subject to his financial control.

In politics he refuses to give the state the means for its self-preservation, destroys the bases of any national self-determination and defense, wipes out the faith in leadership, denigrates the historic past, and pulls everything truly great into the gutter.

In cultural affairs he pollutes art, literature, theater, befuddles national sentiment, subverts all concepts of beauty and grandeur, of nobleness and goodness, and reduces people to their lowest nature.

Religion is made ridiculous, custom and morals are declared outdated, until the last props of national character in the battle for survival have collapsed...

*Thus the Jew is the big rabble-rouser for the complete destruction of Germany. Wherever in the world we read about attacks on Germany, Jews are the source, just as in peace and during the war the newspapers of both the Jewish stock market and the Marxist systematically incited hatred against Germany. Country after country gave up its neutrality and joined the world war coalition in disregard of the trust interest of the people.*

Jewish thinking in all this is clear. The Bolshevization of Germany, i.e., the destruction of the German national people-oriented intelligentsia and thereby the exploitation of German labor under the yoke of Jewish global finance are but the prelude for the expansion of the Jewish tendency to conquer the world. As so often in history, Germany is the turning point in this mighty struggle. If our people and our state become the victims of blood-thirsty and money-thirsty Jewish tyrants, the whole world will be enmeshed in the tentacles of this octopus. If, however, Germany liberates itself from this yoke, we can be sure that the greatest threat to all humanity has been broken...

### **Propaganda and Mass Rallies**

[Note: Hitler was a master propagandist and advanced his ideas on propaganda techniques in *Mein Kampf*. He mocked the learned and book-oriented German liberals and socialists who he felt were entirely unsuited for modern mass politics. In *Mein Kampf* he explained how to win over the masses. He said what counted most at mass meetings were will power, strength, and

unflinching determination radiating from the speaker to every single individual in the crowd.]

The task of propaganda does not lie in the scientific training of individuals, but in directing the masses toward certain facts, events, necessities, etc., whose significance is to be brought to their attention.

The essential skill consists in doing this so well that you convince people about the reality of a fact, about the necessity of an event, about the correctness of something necessary, etc... You always have to appeal to the emotions and far less to the so-called intellect...

The art of propaganda lies in sensing the emotional temper of the broad masses so that you, in psychologically effective form, can catch their attention and move their hearts...

The attention span of the masses is very short, their understanding limited; they easily forget. For that reason all effective propaganda has to concentrate on very few points and drive them home through simple slogans, until even the simplest can grasp what you have in mind. As soon as you give up this principle and become too complex, you will lose your effectiveness, because the masses cannot digest and retain what you have offered. You thereby weaken your case and in the end lose it altogether.

The larger the scope of your case, the more psychologically correct must be the method of your presentation...

The task of propaganda lies not in weighing right or wrong, but in driving home your own point of view. You cannot objectively explore the facts that favor others and present them in doctrinaire sincerity to the masses. You have to push relentlessly your own case...

Even the most brilliant propaganda will not produce the desired results unless it follows this fundamental rule: You must stick to limiting yourself to essentials and repeat them endlessly. Persistence on this point, as in so many other cases in the world, is the first and most important precondition for success...

Propaganda does not exist to furnish interesting diversions to blasé young dandies, but to convince above all the masses. In their clumsiness they always require a long lead before they are ready to take notice. Only by thousandfold repetition will the simplest concepts stick in their memories.

No variation of your presentation should change the content of your propaganda; you always have to come to the same conclusion. You may want to highlight your slogans from various sides, but at the end you always have to reaffirm it. Only consistent and uniform propaganda will succeed...

Every advertisement, whether in business or politics, derives its success from its persistence and uniformity...

*The mass meeting is...necessary because an incipient supporter of a new political movement will feel lonely and anxiously isolated. He needs at the start a sense of a larger community which among most people produces vitality and courage.* The same man as member of a military company or battalion and surrounded by his comrades will more lightheartedly join an attack than if he were all by himself. In a crowd he feels more sheltered, even if reality were a thousandfold against him.

The sense of community in mass demonstration not only empowers the individual, but also promotes an esprit de corps. The person who in his business or workshop is the first to represent a new political creed is likely to be exposed to heavy discrimination. He needs the reassurance that comes from the conviction of being a member and a fighter in a large comprehensive organization. The sense of this organization comes first to him in a mass demonstration. When he for the first time goes from a petty workshop or from a large factory, where he feels insignificant, to a mass demonstration surrounded by thousands and thousands of like-minded fellows – when he as a seeker is gripped by the intoxicating surge of enthusiasm among three or four thousand others – when the visible success and the consensus of thousands of others prove the correctness of his new political creed and for the first time arouses doubts about his previous political convictions – then he submits to the miraculous influence of what we call “mass suggestion.” The will, the yearning, and also the power of thousands of fellow citizens now fill every individual. The man who full of doubts and uncertain enters such a gathering, leaves it inwardly strengthened; he has become a member of a community.

### **Lebensraum**

[Note: Hitler was an extreme nationalist who wanted a reawakened, racially united Germany to expand eastward at the expense of the Slavs, whom he viewed as racially inferior)

A people gains its freedom of existence only by occupying a sufficiently large space on earth...

If the National Socialist movement really wants to achieve a hallowed mission in history for our people, it must, in painful awareness of its position in the world, boldly and methodically fight against the aimlessness and incapacity which have hitherto guided all foreign policy of the German people. It must then, without respect for “tradition”

and prejudice, find the courage to rally the German people to a forceful advance on the road which leads from their present cramped living space to new territories. In this manner they will be liberated from the danger of perishing or being enslaved in service to others.

The National Socialist movement must try to end the disproportion between our numerous population and its limited living space, the source of our food as well as the base of our power – between our historic past and the hopelessness of our present importance...

The demand for restoring the boundaries of 1914 is a political nonsense with consequence so huge as to make it appear a crime—quite apart from the fact that our pre-war boundaries were anything but logistical. They neither united all people of German nationality nor served strategic-political necessity...

In the light of this fact we National Socialist must resolutely stick to our foreign policy goals, namely to *secure for the German people the territorial base to which they are entitled*. This is the only goal which before God and our German posterity justifies shedding our blood...

Just as our forebears did not receive the soil on which we live as a gift from heaven – they had to risk their lives for it – so in future we will not secure the living space for our people by divine grace, but by the might of the victorious sword.

However much all of us recognize the necessity of reckoning with France, it would remain ineffectual if we thereby limited the scope of our foreign policy. It makes sense only if we consider it as a rear-guard action or expanding our living space elsewhere in Europe...

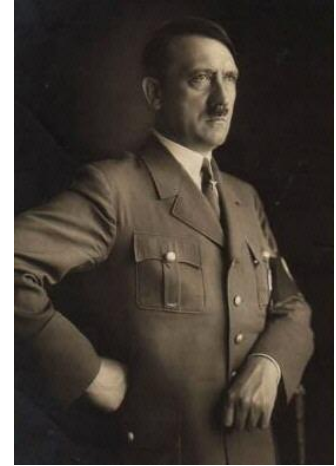
If we speak today about gaining territory in Europe, we think primarily of Russia and its border states...

Hitler's Views on Race	Hitler's Insights on Mass Psychology	Hitler's Foreign Policy Goals

List some ways that Hitler appealed to the German people

### Notes on Adolf Hitler, continued.

- After being released from prison, he used the radio to spread the Nazi Message.
  - Bitter, frustrated, and patriotic speeches reflected how Germany felt after WWI.
- Few followers until the Global Depression of 1929.
  - Germany was hit hard
- 1930s – gained middle class voters
  - Fear of Communist Revolution in the midst of depression
  - With each election the Nazi party's popularity grew
- Hitler's promises:
  - Repeal the Treaty of Versailles (War guilt clause, especially)
  - Restore armaments
  - Regain lost territory and build a greater Germany
  - Protect against Communism
  - Aryans would be the master race.
- By 1932: Nazi's held 230 seats in the Reichstag.
  - Largest party, but not a majority.
- **Hitler comes to power**
  - 1933 – President of the Republic named Hitler chancellor (head of Parliament)
    - Still no Nazi majority
    - Used storm troopers (brown shirts) to intimidate other party members in the Reichstag.
  - 1933 – Fire in the Reichstag
    - Blamed on communists, but probably lit by Nazis.
    - Hitler given emergency dictatorship powers to deal with a possible communist revolution.
      - Used this power to become a real dictator.
  - Called himself *Der Fuherer* (the leader) & starts Totalitarian policies.
    - Turned Germany into a police state
    - Private army loyal to only Hitler created (SS) & secret police (Gestapo)
    - Banned opposing political parties, unions, strikes and newspapers.
    - Government took control of business & ends unemployment
      - Millions of Germans put to work in new factories
      - Public works projects
      - Military expansion to help economy & Germany
  - 1934: SS & Gestapo arrests and murders hundreds of Hitler's enemies
  - **First Concentration Camps**
    - Liberals, socialists, communists – killed or put into camps.
  - New Promises: Return Germany to its former Glory.
    - Third Reich = Empire
    - 1<sup>st</sup> German Empire- Holy Roman Empire
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> German Empire – Hollenzolerns



## Germany Violates the Versailles Treaty – testing the waters.

- 1933: Hitler removed Germany from the League of Nations & announced his plans to rearm.
- 1935-1936: Hitler openly defies the treaty by arming the Rhineland
  - Neither England nor France reacts.
  - France overestimates Hitler's might and is afraid.
  - England decided it's not worth going to war over.
  - Easy success for Hitler.
- 1936: Hitler & Mussolini become allies with the "Rome-Berlin Axis." They would become the axis all of Europe would revolve around.



## Japan

- 1920s: Rice shortages led to riots and increased dependence on Taiwan and Korea (colonies)
- 1929: Great Depression cut exports/ harmed economy
  - Democratic government blamed
  - Military leaders gained support & took control
  - Emperor Hirohito kept as head of state
- Plan of extreme nationalism & foreign expansion in the Pacific to help economy (raw materials, markets, food)

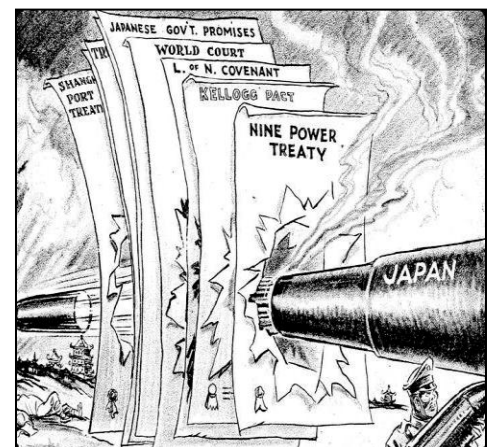


## Japanese Aggression

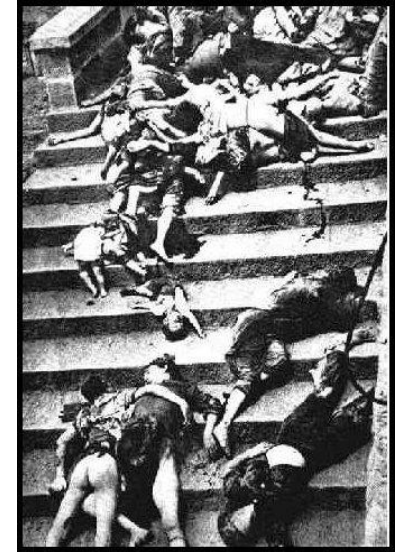
- 1931: Invasion & take over of Manchuria (The Mukden Incident)
  - In Southern Manchuria, a section of railroad that belonged to Japan's South Manchuria Railway was bombed.
    - Chinese dissidents blamed by Japan's Imperial government.
    - Responded with the invasion of Manchuria.
    - Most believe the Japanese blew up their own tracks as a pretense for invasion.
  - Gateway to China, Buffer to USSR, Raw Materials for Japan
  - Renamed Manchukuo
  - This was the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War, but the real aggression did not begin until 1937.
  - Chinese communists & nationalists were engaged in a civil war and did not mount a swift defense.
- League of Nations protested
  - 1933: Japan withdrew from the League of Nations
  - The cartoon to the right shows a number of treaties Japan violated by invading China.
    - The Covenant of the League of Nations (1920): Basic idea was that countries would respect each other borders & avoid war.
    - The Nine Powers Treaty (1922): affirmed Chinese sovereignty & borders.
    - Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928): prohibited the use of war as an instrument of national policy except in self defense
    - There were several others.
- 1937, Chinese Communists & Nationalists decided to work together to defeat the Japanese.



Chinese Museum dedicated to the Mukden Incident

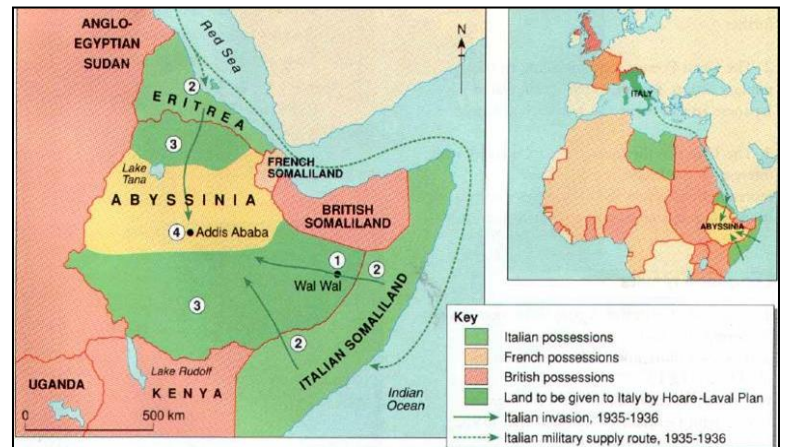


- Army was poorly trained & poorly equipped.
- August 1937, met the Japanese army at the Battle of Shanghai
  - Japanese army suffered heavy losses
  - Made it clear that taking China would take years, not months.
- Mid-November, Japanese conquered Shanghai
- Dec. 1: Japanese government moved troops to Nanking, the capital of the Republic of China
  - The Chinese saw this coming and removed most of their troops, knowing they could not hold Nanking.
  - The Chinese government also fled Nanking.
- The Nanking Massacre (1937), also known as *the Rape of Nanking*.
  - Dec. 13, 1937: Japanese captured city of Nanking (today Nanjing),
    - With minimal defense the city fell quickly.
  - For 6 weeks there was a brutal massacre against the Chinese people.
    - Hundreds of thousands of civilians murdered
    - 20,000-80,000 women were raped by Japanese soldiers.



### Italian Aggression

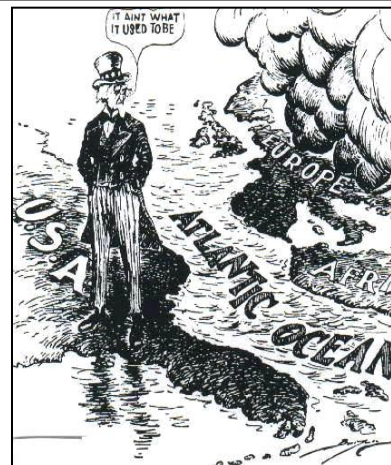
- 1935: Italy attacked Ethiopia, one of 3 independent African nations.
  - Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie appealed to the League of Nations for help.
    - Ethiopia was a member.
  - The League of Nations condemned the attack, but did nothing.



### Response by the United States

- Congress passes the Neutrality Acts of 1934, 1935, 1937, and 1939.

Why did these aggressor nations (Germany, Italy, & Japan) feel that they could continue their campaigns?



Uncle Sam is saying: "It ain't what it used to be!"

## The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)

- 1931 Spanish Monarchy Fell
- New Democracy
- Reforms of the new Republic
  - Redistribution of large estate lands
  - the separation of Church and state
  - Antiwar, antimilitarist policies to undermine the power of the aristocracy, the Catholic Church, and the armed forces
  - 1936: Socialists & communists are voted into office.
- The Nationalists: Landed aristocracy, the Catholic Church, a large military clique, the monarchists, and the new fascist party (the Falange) join together to defeat the new government
  - The battle begins led by Francisco Franco, a fascist. →
  - Between 1936 & 1939 the Nationalists took the entire country from the Republicans by force.
    - They were helped by troops sent by Mussolini & Hitler.
      - Hitler first tried his Blitzkrieg fighting technique in Spain.
        - Blitzkrieg: "lightening War." Use of overwhelming force (planes, tanks, etc.) & rapid speed to break enemy lines.
    - The Republicans had help from American fighters who went by choice (The Abraham Lincoln Brigade).



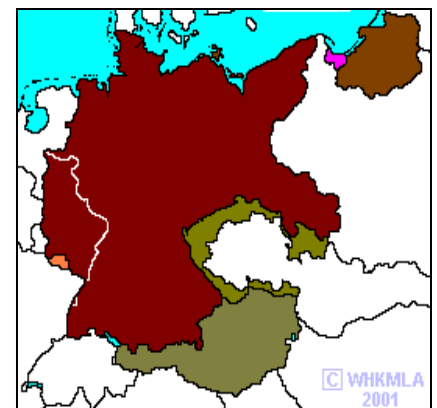
Italian troops in Madrid, Spain



## Why is the Spanish Civil War called the "Dress Rehearsal" for WWII?

### German Aggression

- 1938: The Austrian *Anschluss*
  - Nazi party formed in Austria in the 1920s
    - By 1938 threats from both Hitler and Mussolini forced the Austrian government to include Nazi members in their cabinet.
  - Austrian chancellor signed an Anschluss (union) with Hitler



All shaded areas had "Germans" living in them. Austria is furthest south.



- Regretted it and tried to get Hitler to let the Austrian people to vote on it, but Hitler refused.
- German troops marched into Austria unopposed
- This kind of union was prohibited by the Treaty of Versailles
  - Increased Germany's population, territory, and resources.
  - Germany now in central Europe and has reached the common border of Italy.
- March 1938: Austria proclaimed part of the Third Reich (German Empire).
  - Britain and France send protest to Hitler – he ignores them.
  - The League of Nations takes no action even though Czechoslovakia is now threatened.

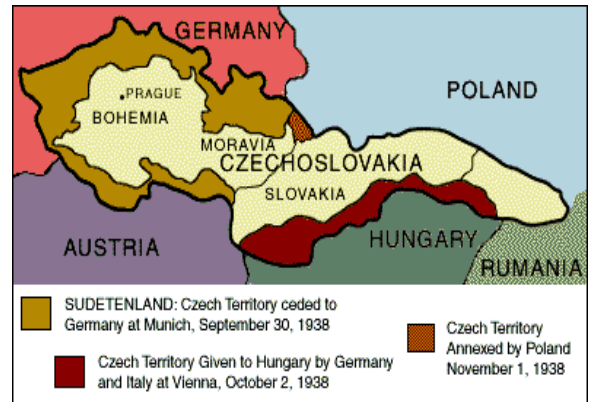


German soldiers lift the border crossing into Austria.



- The “Problem” of the Sudetenland

- The Sudetenland was a region on the western rim of Czechoslovakia occupied by more than 3 million Germans.
  - Once part of the Habsburg Empire.
  - Line of mountains between Sudetenland & Germany/Austria – heavily fortified by Czechoslovakia.
  - Germans treated very well in Sudetenland by Czech gov't ; allowed to maintain their cultural heritage completely.
- After the Anschluss with Austria, Nazis demanded a self-governing Sudetenland.
  - Riots broke out & the land was placed under martial law.
  - Hitler then got involved.
    - Announced plans to invade & annex the Sudetenland
    - Loss of this defensive line would threaten all of Czechoslovakia.
- Czechoslovakia had alliances with France & the Soviet Union
  - Both agreed to defend her if the other got involved.
  - France turned to England for advice.
    - England suggested they be patient & make every concession to avoid war.
    - Czechoslovakia granted increased independence for the Sudetens.



**Appeasement at Munich, 1938** →

- Prime ministers of France (Édouard Daladier) & England (Neville Chamberlain) met with Hitler & Mussolini in Munich to discuss the situation in Czechoslovakia.

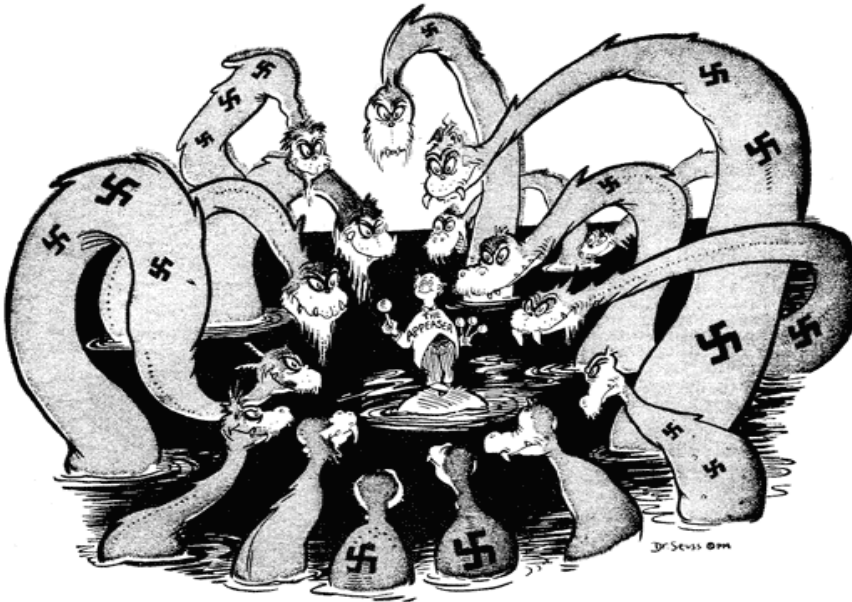


- Hitler explained he only wanted the Sudetenland due to its German population.
- Led by Chamberlain, both France & England gave in.
- They wanted to avoid war – both were unprepared.
- France announced it would not honor its alliance with Czechoslovakia
- March 1939, Hitler annexed all of Czechoslovakia (not just the Sudetenland).
  - The League of Nations did nothing.
  - France and England realized they could no longer stay neutral and began to prepare for war.



“Now we will have peace in our time! Herr Hitler is a man we can do business with!” - Chamberlain

*‘Remember . . . One More Lollypop, and Then You All Go Home!’*



A Czech woman cries as Nazi troops file into her homeland.

**Explain the Cartoon above.**

### Alliances that existed before the War

Allies	Axis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• France had a defensive alliance with Poland.</li> <li>• England announced they would help Poland too if Germany attacked.</li> </ul> <p>Attempted Alliance with the USSR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• France had a non-aggression treaty with the USSR (approached Stalin with England &amp; suggested an alliance against Germany).</li> <li>• USSR demand that England &amp; France cannot agree to, and a stalemate is reached.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany &amp; Italy</li> <li>• Japan joins this alliance in 1940</li> </ul> <p>Attempted Alliance with the USSR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USSR signs the non-aggression pact with Germany (see below)</li> </ul>

### The Hitler-Stalin Pact

- Also known as the German-Soviet Nonaggression pact.
  - Pledged that Germany and the USSR would never attack each other, and would remain neutral if either became involved in the War.
  - Also agreed to split up Eastern Europe among the two of them.
- A pact between enemies?? Nazi's hate communists!
  - Neither Stalin nor Hitler expected this pact to last.
  - Both were trying to buy time.
  - Hitler just wanted the USSR Neutral (no more two front wars!)



Foreign Ministers von Ribbentrop & Molotov sign the nonaggression pact.

### The End of Poland (again)



From what you've read, what will it take for the Allied forces to jump in to STOP Hitler?

How are the allied forces different than they were before World War I?